

BURNING AT STAKE IN THE UNITED STATES

By N. A. A. C. P.

NOTE: This is the first installment of a series of (5) articles on five public burnings in 1919. Look for next article in July 19th issue.

THE BURNING OF BRAGG WILLIAMS.

from Austin American, January 20, 1919. (Headlines and news matter reprinted from Austin American, January 20, 1919)

NEGRO PAYS PENALTY FOR FEARFUL CRIME ON FLAMING FIRE

Bragg Williams Meets Death by Lynching at Hillsboro, Texas. He was Sentenced to Hang.

OFFICERS OF LAW WERE OVERPOWERED.

Dozens of Women and Children looked on as Man Burned; Hillsboro in Turnout.

Bragg Williams, negro, under death sentence for the murder of Mrs. George Wells and her child at Itasca, was taken from the Hills County Jail here at noon today by a mob and burned at the stake.

The crowd was orderly and there was little excitement.

APPEAL WAS FILED

Notice of appeal from his sentence was filed by Williams' attorney today, and this action is said to have led the mob to taking the case in its own hands.

Mrs. Wells and her child were found murdered in their home near Itasca on December 2, 1918. Williams was arrested on the day of the murder and spirited away to avoid threatening violence.

CONVICTED LAST WEEK.

The negro was convicted of the murders here last week and taken to Dallas for safe keeping.

Texas rangers, who guarded the court room during the trial, brought Williams back from Dallas last night and lodged him in jail, after which the rangers left Hillsboro.

TO BE HANGED TODAY

This morning Williams was taken before Judge Horton Porter and sentenced to be hanged on February 21. Attorneys for the defendant immediately filed notice of appeal.

This is said to have enraged residents of the Itasca neighborhood present, who numbered several score.

JUDGE LYNCH THERE

A mob was organized and took the law into its own hands. Twenty-two officers attempted vainly to control the crowd but it proceeded quietly to cut down a telephone pole which was used as a battering ram with which the jail door was broken in. The guards inside the jail was then rushed, the negro seized and taken to the public square where he was tied to a post.

Boxes, barrels and other fuel matter over which oil had been scattered furnished the pyre.

WOMEN AS ONLOOKERS

Between 300 and 400 persons, including dozens of women, looked on as the negro burned.

The body was entirely consumed in about forty minutes, after which the crowd quietly dispersed. (From the Dallas Morning News, January 1, 1919.)

The negro was brought out and led to the public square. Williams was chained to the concrete "safety post" on the corner. Hay, wood, and coal were piled about him and over the mass was poured several gallons of kerosene. A match was applied. Williams lived but a few minutes in the flames, probably not more than five. He is said to have made no outcry at his fate further than to say "Help me, Cap." three times. While a mob of many persons gathered around the burning, no business was done.

WIRE CONTROL PASSES

Telegraphs and Telephones Go Back To Owners on July 31st

Washington, July—All telegraph, telephone and other wire facilities will pass formerly from government control, and be returned to their owners, at midnight, July 31, as a result of legislation finally agreed upon by the conferees of the Senate and House. Present toll and local exchange rates will be continued for a period of four months which is a compromise between those advocating an extension of ninety days and six months. The bill is awaiting the return of President Wilson and his signature.

BIG PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN PLANNED THROUGH COLORED JOURNALS.

Special to The Dallas Express: Washington, D. C. July 17.—Ot

was not sentenced and there was very little excitement.

(From the Houston Post, January 21, 1919.)

SAYS RANGERS DID DUTY

Adjutant General Harley, Tuesday disclaimed the inference in the report that Bragg Williams, the negro who was burned at the stake at Hillsboro by a mob, had been deserted by the rangers. General Harley said the rangers were sent to Hillsboro at the request of the district judge to protect the negro throughout the trial. After the trial they took the negro to Dallas and put him in jail at that place and returned to Hillsboro, where the judge thanked them for their services. General Harley stated, He did not know how the negro got back to Hillsboro. (From the Galveston News, February 21, 1919.)

HILL COUNTY GRAND JURY FAILS TO RETURN "LYNCHING" BILLS.

The grand jury of Hill County, which has been in session at Hillsboro, adjourned finally yesterday without returning any bills of indictment against persons who participated in the mob that burned Bragg Williams, negro, in the town of Hillsboro on January 20th, last. Information to that effect was received today by Attorney General C. M. Cureton from the county attorney of Hill County.

The court of criminal appeals has not yet issued an order in the proceedings instituted yesterday by the attorney general for having twelve persons cited to appear before that court and show cause why they should not be punished for contempt of court. Contention is made by the attorney general that the members of the mob that lynched the negro Williams were in contempt of the court of criminal appeals because Williams had appealed from the judge of the trial court, which had found him guilty of murder and assessed punishment at death, thereby placing his case within the jurisdiction of the higher court.

The penalty in cases of contempt before the court of criminal appeals is fine or jail imprisonment, or both, without limitation.

A Query Unacknowledged

January 21, 1919

Hon. W. P. Hobby, Governor, Austin, Texas.

Press dispatches from January Twentieth report lynching of Bragg Williams accused of murder who was taken from jail at Hillsboro, Texas, by a mob and burned to death in public square. National Association for Advancement of Colored People, speaking in name of its one hundred sixty-five branches and forty-five thousand members in thirty-eight states of the Union, respectfully request information regarding any steps being taken or contemplated by Texas authorities to uphold her laws against members of mob who have so outrageously flouted them. Since the United States entered the war to make the world safe for democracy more than one hundred Negroes have been lynched. Since President Wilson appealed to the country against lynching on July twenty-sixth, 1918, asking the governors of the states, law officers and men and women of every community in the United States to keep America's name without stain or reproach and to make an end of this disgraceful evil, twenty-one Negroes have been lynched, four of them in Texas. We urge that you use every power at your command to see that members of mob are apprehended and punished to full extent of law.

John R. Shilady, Secretary NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

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THE MORGAN DRUG COMPANY

1512 Atlantic Ave. - Brooklyn, N. Y.

Makers of these Two Famous Skin Preparations

Palmer's Skin-Success Ointment

Palmer's Skin-Success Soap

Palmer's Skin-Success Cream

Palmer's Skin-Success Lotion

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Palmer's Skin-Success Hair Dressing

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QUINO HAIR CROWER

50c. - "Best by Test" - 50c.

Agents Wanted - Write Quino 636 Fogg St., Nashville, Tenn.

vital interest to Colored newspapers is the information that the Ambrosia Toilet Company, a very substantial corporation whose American office is at Cleveland, Ohio, is preparing to send out some attractive advertising copy to a select list of Colored newspapers.

The company's advertising matter, it is reported, will be sent out in form, thus making it easy and convenient of handling, and saving newspapers the cost of composition.

This company has recently, it is said, secured rare formulas from the most celebrated French chemists for growing the hair and beautifying the complexion, and the company's laboratory is busily engaged in manufacturing the same. Ralph W. Tyler has been engaged to prepare the company's advertising copy, and it is rumored here that it may have been possible that when over in Paris during the war, when he was serving as the war correspondent, Mr. Tyler secured for the company the secret from the celebrated French chemists how to impart a beautiful, soft, fair complexion for the darkest skin, and how to transform stubborn locks into long, silky hair-beauty arts in which the French excel.

At any rate the company has the secret, is manufacturing the preparations, and will soon make contracts with Colored newspapers, as well as white, for its big publicity campaign. This will be pleasing news, during the summer period, when advertising usually drops, for our Colored weeklies.

NATION AROUSED OVER HIGH COST OF NECESSITIES.

By Raymond Clapper.

Washington, July 17.—Growing indignation at steady rises in prices and warnings of greater increases to come are reaching official ears in Washington.

Concern over the situation was shown here today in the following departmental action:

Mail reaching Senators and Representatives is liberally sprinkled with complaints "from back home."

Investigation of alleged profiteering by retailers in Washington and possibly other cities will begin Monday, Senator Sherman, Illinois, chairman of the senate District of Columbia committee, announced.

Chairman Colver of the Federal Trade Commission urged passage of legislation restricting the packers. Representative Osborne, California, in the house today declared wages must continue high to meet relatively low purchasing power of money.

Acting Begins.

The first sign that officials here are beginning to act in the food situation came in an announcement from the war department today that stores of surplus bacon, canned roast beef and canned vegetables will

be sold through city governments at prices 25 to 50 per cent under market prices.

To facilitate wide distribution of these stores, cities will be allowed ten days' credit on purchases. They must promise to resell at cost, adding only transportation expenses.

The senate district committee is planning to quiz retailers in food next week as a result of figures compiled by the department of agriculture showing that although wholesale meat prices dropped 25 per cent recently, the housewife still pays the old price.

Following the general trade commission report of attempts by packers to control the food supply of the nation, Chairman Colver wrote to Senator Capper, Kansas, that legislation should be passed to "break the packers' power."

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"BE A SAMETTE GIRL."

1,000 more agents wanted by August 1st.

Samette (pronounced "Say-met") is pleasing every one who has given it a trial. Begin now to improve your hair and make it smooth, long and beautiful by using Samette Hair Grower.

Improve your skin with Samette Beauty Cream High Grade goods at low prices to cut the high cost of beauty. Send your order today. Samette Hair Grower—40c. Samette Pressing Oil—40c. Samette Beauty Cream—40c. Samette Straightening Comb—\$1.25. Special Prices to Agents. Address SAMETTE MFG. CO. P. O. Box 434 Tyler, Texas. Enclose 10 cents for mailing.

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